

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190175

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: A/MED

SUBJECT: SWINE INFLUENZA

1. A NUMBER OF YET TO BE RESOLVED PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE SWINE FLU INFLUENZA VACCINE PROGRAM. THESE INCLUDE THE STRENGTH OF VACCINE AND NUMBER OF DOSES FOR THOSE BELOW AGE 25, AND INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE VACCINE PRODUCERS. THE FORMER QUESTION IS UNDER INVESTIGATION AND A FINAL DECISION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER. IT NOW APPEARS VERY LIKELY THAT THE PROGRAM WILL PROCEED, ALBEIT WITH SOME DELAY IN ITS START.

2. M/MED IS, AT THIS TIME, RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING VACCINE ONLY FOR OFFICIAL AMERICAN EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF VACCINE, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE IT FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR IMMUNIZATIONS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MEDICAL PROGRAM.

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PAGE 02 STATE 190175

THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING VACCINE FOR OTHER FOREIGN

NATIONALS AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS IS BEING DISCUSSED AT OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND A FINAL DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE. DISTRIBUTION OF ALL VACCINE IS CONTROLLED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE.

3. A SATISFACTORY SUPPLY OF MONOVALENT SWINE FLU VACCINE AND BIVALENT SWINE PLUS VICTORIA A VACCINE FOR M/MED'S USE FOR OFFICIAL EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS WORLDWIDE WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SUPPLY CENTER AT PERRY POINT, MARYLAND, PROBABLY IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH VACCINE WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF COST BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, A HANDLING AND SHIPPING CHARGE WILL BE MADE BY PERRY POINT WHICH MUST BE BORNE BY POSTS. POSTS SHOULD ALSO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF SUITABLE DISPOSABLE SYRINGES AND NEEDLES FROM PERRY POINT OR ELSEWHERE.

4. THOSE POSTS, PARTICULARLY IN WESTERN EUROPE, WHICH ARE ABLE TO ORDER THESE VACCINES MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY THROUGH THEIR USUAL MILITARY SUPPLY CHANNELS, MAY DO SO IF DESIRED.

5. A SEPARATE HONG KONG B VACCINE WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH COMMERCIAL SOURCES. AS MANY AUTHORITIES QUESTION THE NEED FOR THIS VACCINE AND AS ITS SUPPLY WILL FURTHER COMPLICATE ALREADY DIFFICULT LOGISTIC PROBLEMS, M/MED IS NOT RECOMMENDING USE OF THIS VACCINE EITHER IN THE UNITED STATES OR ABROAD.

6. AT THIS TIME, THE DEFINITE DOSE AND VACCINE STRENGTH HAS BEEN DETERMINED ONLY FOR THOSE AGE 25 AND ABOVE. THIS WILL BE 0.5 (ONE HALF) CC OF 200 CCA UNITS OF SWINE FLU VIRUS FOR THE MONOVALENT VACCINE. THE BIVALENT VACCINE WILL CONTAIN THE SAME AMOUNT OF SWINE FLU VIRUS PLUS 200 CCA UNITS OF VICTORIA A VIRUS. FOR THOSE 18 TO 24 YEARS, IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER SIMILAR VACCINES IN A SINGLE DOSE WILL BE GIVEN. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A SECOND DOSE WILL BE RECOMMENDED OR THAT A SINGLE DOSE OF 400 CCA VIRUS UNITS WILL BE NECESSARY. IN THE LAST CASE, A SEPARATE VACCINE MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THIS AGE GROUP. SIMI-

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 190175

LARLY THE VIRUS COMPONENT AND NUMBER OF DOSES FOR THOSE BELOW 18 WILL BE DETERMINED LATER. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE SENT AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE TO US.

7. ALTHOUGH UNCERTAINTY STILL EXISTS CONCERNING THE AMOUNT AND POSSIBLE TYPES OF VACCINE REQUIRED BY POSTS ABROAD, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THEY PLACE PRELIMINARY ORDERS DIRECTLY

REPEAT DIRECTLY WITH PERRY POINT. POSTS MAILING PURCHASE ORDERS SHOULD ADDRESS THEM TO: USPHS, HSA SUPPLY SERVICE CENTER, PERRY POINT, MD. 21902. CABLED ORDERS TO PERRY POINT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TCH-1, PARAGRAPH 172.25. FISCAL DATA MUST BE INCLUDED IN ALL ORDERS. ANY LATER QUESTIONS REGARDING STABILITY OF VACCINE DUE TO SHIPPING DELAYS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO PERRY POINT.

8. IN PLANNING, THE OFFICIAL POST POPULATION SHOULD, AT THIS TIME, BE DIVIDED AS FOLLOWS PENDING FINAL RESOLUTION OF TYPE VACCINE, SIZE AND NUMBER OF DOSES FOR YOUNGER AGE GROUPS.

A. NUMBER OF HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS--THOSE ABOVE AGE 65 AND/OR WITH SUCH CHRONIC HEALTH PROBLEMS AS HEART OR CHRONIC BRONCHOPULMONARY DISEASES, CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE, AND DIABETES MELLITUS OR OTHER CHRONIC METABOLIC PROBLEMS, WHO WILL REQUIRE THE COMBINED VACCINE.

B. NUMBER ABOVE AGE 25 WHO WILL RECEIVE ONE-HALF CC IN A SINGLE DOSE OF MONOVALENT SWINE VACCINE.

C. NUMBER BELOW AGE 25 IN THE FOLLOWING AGE BREAK-DOWNS: (1) LESS THAN 6 MONTHS; (2) 6 TO 18 MONTHS; (3) 18 MONTHS TO 17 YEARS; (4) 18 YEARS TO 24 YEARS.

D. NUMBER OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF VACCINE).

9. VACCINE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 10 DOSE AND 50 DOSE VIALS.

10. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO HAVE ALL RECIPIENTS SIGN A CONSENT FORM. A SUPPLY OF THESE FORMS WILL BE SENT WITH UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 190175

THE VACCINE. FOR THOSE POSTS WITHOUT FOREIGN SERVICE MEDICAL PERSONNEL, THE VACCINE SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED IN A SIMILAR FASHION AS FOR OTHER ROUTINE IMMUNIZATIONS.

11. FOR THOSE POSTS WITH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS, A SEPARATE SUPPLY OF VACCINE WILL BE DELIVERED TO PERRY POINT FOR PEACE CORPS USE. EMBASSY AND PEACE CORPS ORDERS MUST BE PLACED ON SEPARATE ORDERS WITH SEPARATE FISCAL DATA.

12. INDICATIONS SO FAR ARE THAT THE VACCINES CAUSE MINIMAL SIDE EFFECTS. HOWEVER, PERSONS WITH KNOWN HYPERSENSITIVITY TO EGG PROTEIN SHOULD BE GIVEN A SKIN TEST OR OTHER ALLERGY--EVALUATING TEST USING THE SWINE FLU VACCINE AS THE ANTIGEN. PERSONS WITH ADVERSE REACTIONS TO SUCH TESTING SHOULD NOT BE VACCINATED. PERSONS WITH ACUTE

FEBRILE ILLNESSES SHOULD NOT BE VACCINATED UNTIL THEY HAVE RECOVERED. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME BALANCE OF BENEFITS AND RISKS REGARDING INFLUENZA VACCINATION AND INFLUENZA AS THE GENERAL POPULATION. THERE ARE NO DATA SPECIFICALLY TO CONTRA-INDICATE VACCINATION WITH THE AVAILABLE KILLED VIRUS VACCINE IN PREGNANCY.

13. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES IN REGARD TO INFLUENZA VACCINE WILL FOLLOW BY CIRCULAR AIRGRAM. THIS WILL BE ADDITIONAL USEFUL TECHNICAL INFORMATION FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VACCINATION PROGRAMS. KISSINGER

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